

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A long chain crosslinked elastomeric composition of matter comprises 100 parts by weight of a rubber selected from the group consisting of polybutadiene, styrene-butadiene rubber, synthetic *cis*-1,4-polyisoprene, synthetic polyisoprene, *cis*-polybutadiene, butadiene-isoprene rubber, styrene-isoprene rubber, styrene-isoprene-butadiene rubber, butyl rubber, neoprene, acrylonitrile-butadiene rubber, natural rubber, EPDM, terminal and backbone functionalized derivatives thereof, and mixtures thereof; from about 1 to about 15 parts by weight of a difunctional crosslinking agent, per 100 parts by weight of the rubber, having the structure $Y_m(SRS)_nY_m$, where Y is selected from the group consisting of H, SR' and SiR'₃; where R is selected from the group consisting of branched and linear C2 to C20 alkylene, C6 to C20 arylene, C7 to C20 alkyarylene and C4 to C20 cycloalkylene groups and R"XR"; where R' is selected from the group consisting of branched and linear C1 to C10 alkyl, C6 to C10 aryl, C7 to C10 alkyaryl and C4 to C10 cycloalkyl groups; where R" is selected from the group consisting of branched and linear C2 to C10 alkylene, C6 to C10 arylene, C7 to C10 alkyarylene and C4 to C10 cycloalkylene groups and R" can be the same or different; where X is selected from the group consisting of O, S, NH, NR' and mixtures thereof; where m is 0 or 1 and n is 1 to about 100; from 0 to 5 parts by weight of sulfur; and from about 0.2 to about 10 parts by weight of at least one accelerator. A method for making such long chain compositions of matter is provided as are rubber articles and component for pneumatic tires comprising such crosslinked compositions of matter.

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